

Ridgecrest Solar Power Project (09-AFC-9)

Workshop Agenda for September 9, 2010

Topic: Mohave Ground Squirrel (MGS) Study

***INTRODUCTIONS, PAO (Brochure), PUBLIC COMMENT (blue cards), PURPOSE AND GOALS OF THE WORKSHOP**

Goals of Study (9:00-9:45)

- 1) Presence/Absence and Density of MGS on proposed site
- 2) Presence/Absence and Density of MGS in surrounding area
- 3) Use of RSPP site as a movement corridor
- 4) Use of alternative areas as movement/connectivity corridors? Little Dixie Wash?
- 5) Testable hypothesis?
- 6) Peer-reviewed journal publication?

Data to be Gathered (9:45-10:30)

- 1) Trapping Data Onsite
- 2) Trapping Data in Surrounding Areas
- 3) Vegetation Characteristics in trapping grids to show differences in areas of presence and absence
- 4) Blood work to show how often genetic exchange occurs through project site and region in general
- 5) Radio-collaring to show local movements within site and region in general

Potential Issues and Points of Discussion (10:30-11:15)

- 1) Land access on project site and surrounding areas
- 2) Rainfall dependent studies. What contingencies are in place if one or both years are not ideal for trapping?
- 3) Are two years of data sufficient to answer the primary questions of the study?
- 4) What sample size of animals is adequate to answer primary questions?
- 5) Mortality associated with trapping and monitoring (tag placement, blood work, recapture)
- 6) How many sites are to be trapped? How to choose what sites are sampled?
- 7) Identify potential mitigation lands. Data from mitigation lands and how they fully mitigate for potential project impacts
- 8) Other biological issues exist on the site (tortoise)
- 9) Is translocation a suitable minimization measure for MGS?

Deliverables Schedule to Agencies (11:15-11:30)

- 1) Draft and Final Study Plan for Agency approval
- 2) Summary reports of field data

Other Discussion Points/Questions? (11:30-12:00)